

Message Text

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ACTION EB-03

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5017

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 3678

STADIS-LIMDIS////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, PE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - DISPUTE WITH PERU

REF: LIMA 3624

1. BRANIFF REPLY TO AEROPERU:

A. AS INDICATED REFTTEL, AMBASSADOR AGREES WITH FOREIGN MINISTER'S VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR BRANIFF TO REPLY TO AEROPERU'S LETTER OF APRIL 21. EMBOFF HAS DISCUSSED THIS WITH DEL SOLAR, WHO SAYS BRANIFF BELIEVES THAT IT IS PREFERABLE NOT TO REPLY SINCE REPLY MIGHT ELICIT AEROPERU PROPOSAL INTER AILA, OF COMPROMISE AT LEVEL OF 25 FREQUENCEIS WHICH BRANIFF WOULD HAVE TO REJECT, THUS PLACING RESPONSIBILITY FOR FAILURE OF TALKS SQUARELY ON BRANIFF.

B. EMBOFF SAID HE THOUGHT THIS EVENTUALITY MIGHT BE AVOIDED BY APPROPRIATE DRAFTING AND THAT BRANIFF MIGHT, FOR EXAMPLE, TAKE LINE SIMILAR TO THAT OF AMBASSADOR'S APRIL 30 LETTER FOR FORIEGN MINISTRY IN RESPONSE TO INISTRY'S MEMORANDUM OF APRIL 28 (LIMA 3511). APRIL 30 LETTER ESSENTIALLY CONFINED ITSELF TO POINTING OUT THAT PERUVIAN POSTION HAS INFLEXIBLY REMAINED AT 24 FRE- QUENCIES, WHILE BRANIFF HAS MOVED SECCESSEVLY FROM 34 TO 32 TO 29 AND FINALLY TO 26. BRANIFF HAD NOT -UNI- LATERALLY BROKEN ('INTERRUMPIDO') THE NEOGITATIONS" AS
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STATED IN THE MINISTRY'S MEMORANDUM; WHAT HAD HAPPENED

WAS THAT AEROPERU HAD REJECTED BRANIFF'S LAST OFFER.

C. DEL SOLAR SAID HE WOULD CHECK WITH DALLAS HEAD-QUARTERS, WHICH WOULD PROBABLY BE IN TOUCH WITH DEPARTMENT ON THIS QUESTION. BRANIFF WOULD DO WHATEVER THE USG THOUGHT BEST. OUR VIEW CONTINUES TO BE THAT A REPLY WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR THE RECORD, AND WE WOULD SO RECOMMEND, BUT WE WOULD NOT UNDERTAKE TO TRY TO INSTRUCT BRANIFF IN THIS MATTER.

2. CABINET DISCUSSES CIVAIR: DEL SOLAR TOLD DCM THAT HE HAD LEARNED THAT CABINET DISCUSSED CIVAIR PROBLEM AT APRIL 29 MEETING, ALTHOUGH IT HAD NOT BEEN ON AGENDA. DISCUSSION WAS APPARENTLY INCONCLUSIVE, AS CABINET HAD MERELY INSTRUCTED FOREIGN MINISTER TO RESOLVE PROBLEM WITHOUT GIVING AWAY ANYTHING THAT WOULD DAMAGE AEROPERU.

3. POSSIBLE MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER: IF SECRETARY PLANS BILATERAL MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DURING COURSE OF OAS SESSION, WE THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF HE COULD RAISE CIVAIR MATTER WITH DE LA FLOR, OR AT LEAST BE BRIEFED SO THAT HE WOULD BE IN POSITION TO RESPOND IF DE LA FLOR TAKES THE INITIATIVE. AMONG POINTS WHICH MIGHT BE INCLUDED IS THAT BRANIFF HAS MADE SEVERAL CONCESSIONS, WHILE AEROPERU HAS REMAINED INFLEXIBLE AND APPARENTLY WANTS RIGHT TO NEW YORK WITHOUT PAYING ANYTHING IN RETURN.

4. BRANIFF SOUTH AMERICA REGION MEETING: IRISH MET DE SOLAR ON MAY 3 ENROUTE FROM MIAMI TO LIMA. DEL SOLAR SAID THAT BRANIFF HAD HELD MEETING OF COUNTRY VICE PRISIDENTS IN MIAMI TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF PERU, ECUADOR AND BOLIVIA, AND TO CONSIDER A NEW POLICY TO COPE WITH THEM. THE POLICY CONTEMPLATES SERVING THE VARIOUS SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES PRIMARILY ON THE BASIS OF THIRD AND FOURTH FREEDOMS.

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